

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Andrew H. Hancock

Serial No. : TBD

Art Unit: 3732

Filed : October 12, 2001

Examiner: P. Hirsch

For : APPRATUS AND METHODS FOR OFF-PUMP CARDIAC SURGERY

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October 12, 2001

(Date)

E. Richard Skula

Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative

(Signature)

October 12, 2001

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the Divisional Application  
filed on evendate which is a Division of prior pending application  
Serial No. 09/293,630 filed April 15, 1999. Please amend the above-  
identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:


Please cancel without prejudice Claim 1.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified Divisional Patent Application filed on eventdate herewith which is a Divisional of commonly assigned, copending patent application Serial No. 09/293,630. Applicants have canceled without prejudice Claim 1. Remaining claims 2-10 correspond to the Examiner's Groups II-V contained in the Restriction Requirement in the parent application.

Very truly yours,

Andrew H. Hancock

By:   
E. Richard Skula  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 31,061

Johnson & Johnson  
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza  
New Brunswick, NJ 08933  
(732) 524-2718  
DATE: October 12, 2001

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